

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /041 W
-----020417 095746 /61
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0151

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLAB, FR
SUBJECT: LABOR TROUBLE AT EATON COMPANY'S FOUNDRY
IN CHARLEVILLE

REF: PARIS 05585; PARIS 5255; PARIS 3959

1. EARLY ON FEBRUARY 28, AS EXPECTED, POLICE CLEARED CHARLEVILLE PLANT OF OCCUPYING WORKERS. PLANT HAS NOW BEGUN LIMITED OPERATIONS, WITH ONLY 150 (INCLUDING CADRE AND SUPERVISORS) OF 770 WORK FORCE ON JOB MARCH 1.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH LABATT, LOCAL EATON DIRECTOR STATED THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER REOPENING OF PLANT, SIGNIFICANT SHIPMENT OF AVAILABLE PARTS SENT BENDIX, WHICH SHOULD FORESTALL ANY IMMEDIATE ADDITIONAL LAY-OFFS AT BEAUVAIS PLANT. AT PRESENT, HE BELIEVES IT DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN AUTO INDUSTRY WILL FEEL EFFECTS OF ABSENCE OF FULL-PRODUCTION AT CHARLEVILLE AND NOTED VARIOUS ESTIMATES ARE BEING CIRCULATED BUT AUTO INDUSTRY ITSELF KEEPING QUIET. HE SPECULATED THAT DIVERSION OF STOCK FROM SPARE PARTS INVENTORY TO PRODUCTION LINE WOULD CERTAINLY HELP POSTPONE PROBLEM OVER SHORT RUN.

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3. AS TO PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT, EATON MANAGER PAINTED GLOOMY PICTURE. CGT UNION CHARLEVILLE REFUSES TO BELIEVE THAT EATON WILL HOLD THE LINE, AND IS BEING SUPPORTED BY CGT UNION AT BENDIX PLANT WHICH HAS SENT MESSAGE TO EATON MANAGEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WORKERS ARE TOTALLY MISTAKEN IF THEY THINK THEY

CAN BLACKMAIL EATON INTO YIELDING TO CGT DEMANDS; THAT
EATON IS WORKING HARD TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS.

4. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATING FACTOR IS DISMISSAL OF 11
IDENTIFIED TROUBLE MAKERS AND AGITATORS. EATON
FEELS THEIR DISMISSAL WHOLELY JUSTIFIED BUT BELIEVES
LOCAL LABOR INSPECTOR OPPOSED TO ACTION AND THAT
FURTHER COMPLICATIONS MAY ARISE. EATON ALSO
TROUBLED BY LOW PERCENTAGE OF ALGERIAN WORKERS WHO
HAVE COME BACK TO WORK. SAID CGT SPREADING FALSE
STORY THAT EATON INTENDS TO FIRE ALL ALGERIAN WORKERS,
BUT ADDED THAT IF IT WOULD COME TO A REDUCTION IN
WORK FORCE ALGERIANS CERTAINLY WOULDN'T GET
PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT.

5. COMMENT: EATON SENIOR MANAGER HERE SINCE TROUBLE
BEGAN HAS RETURNED TO US FOR CONSULTATIONS AND DUE
BACK NEXT WEEK, POSSIBLY WITH INSTRUCTIONS.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, LABOR DISPUTES, LABOR FORCE, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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